

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

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TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 225967

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, EAID, IAEA, CO

SUBJECT: IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN COLOMBIA -

COL/2/03

REF: IAEA VIENNA 9028

1. AS MISSION IS AWARE, NUMEC WAS ONLY U.S. COMPANY IN 1968 TO
BID ON COBALT-60 FOR SUBJECT PROJECT, AND WENT OUT OF BUSINESS
DURING PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING TO HOUSE SOURCE.

2. WHEN BUILDING WAS NEAR COMPLETION IN 1973 AND AGENCY REQUESTED
U.S. TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR BIDS FROM U.S.
MANUFACTURERS YIELDED BIDS FROM TWO VENDORS - AMERSHAM/SEARLE
AND ICN. SINCE AMERSHAM/SEARLE SUBMITTED LOW BID, AEC WAS
PREPARED AWARD CONTRACT BUT WAS ADVISED BY AGENCY THAT IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF PROJECT TO BE DEFERRED.

3. AEC HAS NOTED THAT NEGATIVE ASPECT OF U.S. PROVIDING EQUIPMENT
FROM AMERSHAM/SEARLE WAS FACT THAT EQUIPMENT WOULD BE MANUFACTURED
BY UK SUBSIDIARY OF U.S. COMPANY, AND COST WAS HIGHER THAN
ESTIMATED AT TIME OF OFFER. AEC WAS PREPARED PROCEED WITH
PROCUREMENT, HOWEVER, BASED ON EARLIER COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE
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EQUIPMENT UNDER 1968 PROGRAM.

4. SINCE PROJECT NOW A PART OF 1974 PROGRAM, U.S. WOULD PREFER NOT TO SUPPORT IT, CONSIDERING MANUFACTURER IS FOREIGN-BASED, AND FACT THAT AGENCY COULD POSSIBLY PROCURE CO-60 FROM EUROPEAN OR CANADIAN MANUFACTURER AT LOWER COST THAN QUOTES OF U.S. MANUFACTURERS (SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONTROL RODS CONTAINING CO-60 WERE BASED ON AECL DESIGN). RUSH

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